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File: USPT

Jan 25, 2000

US-PAT-NO: 6017729

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6017729 A

TITLE: Receptor activator of NF-.kappa.B

DATE-ISSUED: January 25, 2000

INVENTOR-INFORMATION:

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US-CL-CURRENT: 435/69.1; 435/235.1, 435/252.3, 435/320.1, 435/325, 435/70.1, 530/350,
536/23.1, 536/24.31

CLAIMS:

We claim:

1. An isolated DNA selected from the group consisting of:

(a) a DNA encoding a protein comprising amino acids x through 616 of SEQ ID NO:6, wherein x is selected from the group consisting of amino acid 1 and any one of amino acids 24 through 33 of SEQ ID NO:6;

(b) a DNA encoding a protein comprising amino acids x through 625 of SEQ ID NO:15, wherein x is selected from the group consisting of amino acid 1 and any one of amino acids 25 through 35 of SEQ ID NO:15;

(c) DNA encoding a polypeptide comprising amino acids x through y of SEQ ID NO:6, wherein x is selected from the group consisting of amino acid 1 and any one of amino acids 24 through 33 of SEQ ID NO:6, and y is selected from the group consisting of any one of amino acids 196 through 213;

(d) DNA encoding a polypeptide comprising amino acids x through y of SEQ ID NO:15, wherein x is selected from the group consisting of amino acid 1 and any one of amino acids 25 through 35 of SEQ ID NO:15, and y is selected from the group consisting of any one of amino acids 197 through 214; and

(e) DNA molecules encoding fragments of proteins encoded by the DNA of (a)-(d), wherein the fragment is capable of binding RANKL or binding a TRAF.

2. An isolated DNA which encodes a polypeptide comprising amino acids x through y of SEQ ID NO:6, wherein x is selected from the group consisting of amino acid 1 and any one of amino acids 24 through 33 of SEQ ID NO:6, and y is selected from the group consisting of any one of amino acids 196 through 213.

3. The isolated DNA of claim 2, which further comprises a DNA encoding a polypeptide selected from the group consisting of an immunoglobulin Fc domain, an immunoglobulin Fc mutein, a FLAG.TM. tag, a peptide comprising at least about 6

His residues, a leucine zipper, and combinations thereof.

4. A recombinant expression vector comprising a DNA sequence according to claim 1.
5. A recombinant expression vector comprising a DNA sequence according to claim 2.
6. A recombinant expression vector comprising a DNA sequence according to claim 3.
7. A host cell transformed or transfected with an expression vector according to claim 4.
8. A host cell transformed or transfected with an expression vector according to claim 5.
9. A host cell transformed or transfected with an expression vector according to claim 6.
10. A process for preparing a protein, comprising culturing a host cell according to claim 7 under conditions promoting expression of the protein.
11. A process for preparing a protein, comprising culturing a host cell according to claim 8 under conditions promoting expression of the protein.
12. A process for preparing a protein, comprising culturing a host cell according to claim 9 under conditions promoting expression of the protein.
13. An isolated DNA that is at least 9 nucleotides in length, and which is a fragment of the DNA of the coding region of SEQ ID NO:5.
14. An isolated DNA encoding a protein comprising the amino acid sequence x through 616 of SEQ ID NO:6, wherein x is selected from the group consisting of amino acid 1 and any one of amino acids 24 through 33 of SEQ ID NO:6.